

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 874 without my signature.

The overarching objective of improving the jury system is one that we should all share and work together to identify tangible direct solutions. While I am generally supportive of the policy goal of allowing more prospective jurors the opportunity to participate in their civic responsibility, this proposal is not the best mechanism to achieve that goal.

Prohibiting state agencies from contracting with entities that do not provide up to five days of regular pay for actual jury service would limit the number companies that could do business with the State of California. The Department of General Services is charged with obtaining the best value for the taxpayer in contracting for goods and services. This bill would impose an additional restriction on those contractors in order to do business with the State, restrict competition, and ultimately result in higher prices for goods and services.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger